



A word from the LEICA Project Director

I am pleased to share with you, on behalf of my entire team (Project Coordinator - Giorgi Beridze, Key Experts - Valeriy Korotenko and Manuel Marion, and Assistant - Aalmagul Osmonalieva), our joy at working with vibrant enthusiasm alongside our partners in Central Asia. The COVID-19 pandemic did not dampen our determination and that of our partners, as we were received in Bishkek, Tashkent, Nur-Sultan and Dushanbe to explain the objectives of this first EU-funded project in the field of counterterrorism and prevention of violent extremism in Central Asia. Now it is time to develop an action plan for the region. There are many requests, and initiatives already going on in the region. LEICA will endeavor to respond to them, by cooperating with partners offering technical assistance that is both pragmatic and ambitious. The first activities in the field are being planned for the summer of 2021!

Jérôme RIBAUT-GAILLARD

Overview of the Project

In recent years, the region has seen a number of terrorist incidents, like the attack on a group of tourists in Danghara, Tajikistan – as well as ones with more political flavour like the attack on the Chinese Embassy in Bishkek in 2016. Other reported incidents like the prison violence associated with ISIL/Da'esh in Tajikistan in 2019 is also a cause for concern. However, the problem of Central Asian jihadism can unfortunately not be isolated within the region. An unspecified number of Central Asians are reported to have gone to Syria and Iraq. In addition, a number of terrorist attacks have taken place over the past few years in Europe, Russia, North America and Turkey involving Central Asians.

The overall objective of the EU funded project LEICA is to build law enforcement capacities in Central Asia, in order to enhance security both on a national and regional level, by providing technical assistance at national level based on in-depth needs analysis of each country, as well as thematic trainings at regional level.

The 3 mains results are :

- Strategic and operational exchanges on CT between the Central Asian and European law enforcement community.
- Central Asian law enforcement and judicial authorities' capacities to address the terrorist threat in compliance with International Law, Human Rights and the Rule of Law are strengthened.
- Cooperation at a regional level between Central Asian law enforcements agencies that address problems associated with terrorism is increased.



The Project is funded by the European Union



Consortium Supported by INTERPOL

Progress Achieved

Kyrgyzstan:

LEICA key experts team deployed in Bishkek since 1st September 2020. Despite an official presentation of the Project to representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan early October 2020, the dynamic of the dialogue only started with higher speed in January 2021. After the Presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan (10/01), LEICA team has met to all relevant national Kyrgyz authorities and the project has been presented to all relevant agencies. Further meetings planned to engage in in-depth discussions based on answers to questionnaires shared for needs analysis.

Uzbekistan:

After a preliminary field visit in December 2020, progress have been achieved during the second field mission organized from 22 Feb-1 March. The scheduled meetings with relevant agencies have resulted positive and concrete proposals for cooperation are expected before the end of March 2021.

Kazakhstan:

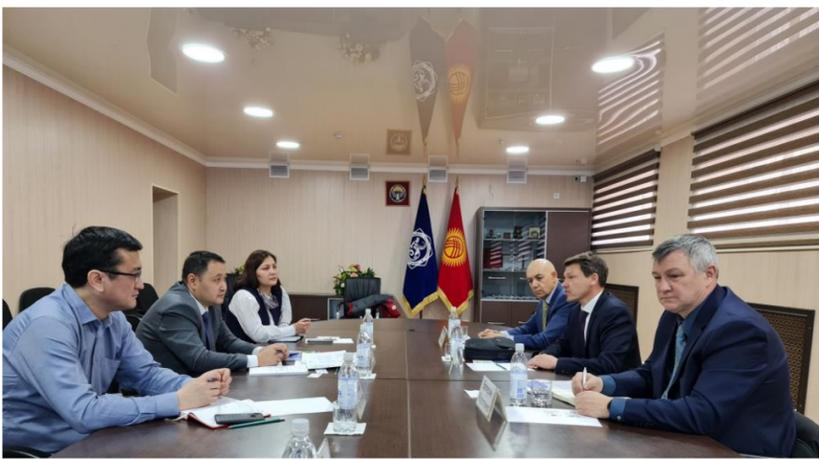
After online meetings with relevant national agencies in December 2020, progress has been made also with Kazakhstan where a scoping mission was organized from 10th to 14th February with promising mutual dialogue that will have to be confirmed on operational level with Law Enforcement Agencies scheduled for April 2021.

Tajikistan:

With the support of Tajik ambassador in Bishkek and EU Delegation in Dushanbe, a first official visit for the Project Team was arranged on 3rd and 4th March 2021. Meetings conducted with relevant state agencies introducing LEICA project. Second visit is planned for April, peer-to-peer meetings will be conducted with Tajik stakeholders for in-depth analysis and planning of the future activities.

Turkmenistan:

At the time of publishing this newsletter Turkmenistan is still landlocked for travels. Ongoing efforts are still paid with the support of the Ambassador of Turkmenistan in Bishkek to facilitate at least online meetings with law enforcement agencies in Ashgabat before planning a scoping mission when air companies will be allowed to resume their flights to the capital city.



State Service of Financial Intelligence - Kyrgyz Republic
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Meeting with General Prosecutor Office representatives of Kazakhstan
Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan



Emergency Management Service of Tajikistan
Dushanbe, Tajikistan



The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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